

Clinton jam session becomes bootleg recording

WASHINGTON (AP) — A recording of President Bill Clinton's "bootleg" session at a Prague club is being marketed by a mail order site, with no connections from the White House. The unauthorized recording, including Sammertine and Ms. Lunny Valentine, is being sold by a New York tape recording company. The first tape he played is said to be rough because he was using a new telephone, but the second song is play, respectively, said Stark, owner, Bernard Brightman. The 18-minute CD sells for \$15. White House spokeswoman Connie Terpino said the CD is "basically a bootleg version" and that Mr. Clinton did not know he was being recorded. She added that White House lawyers were making no effort to block distribution of the recording. "I have heard that it's great music," the Clinton spokeswoman said. Mr. Brightman and he got a thank you note from White House press secretary Dee Myers after sending her a copy of the recording. He said the New York Daily News gave a thumbs-down to the performance. "This said it was sure to go aluminum."

Clinton's leave their mark on Asia

JAKARTA (AP) — A team of Indonesian families have joined their newborn babies after U.S. President Bill Clinton, who visited the country last week for a Asia-Pacific Economic summit, the Associated News Agency said. Some families in Jakarta have named the baby boy Clinton Budias and Clinton Mardiana, Assoc said. When the family of Median, Nusa Dua, calling the baby Clinton, Clinton was said to have been born during the couple's overnight stay in the Philippines before they went to Jakarta for the APEC summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation last. She stayed in a five-star hotel, the Grand Mercure.

Jilted lover tries to immolate girl

RABAT (AP) — A man poured kerosene and set fire to his wife and spurned her in a fit of rage, police said. They said that last night, the man took his revenge after learning that his wife, 26, had left him. He then returned to his wife's residence and doused her with kerosene and set her on fire. The man was arrested and was taken to a hospital, where he died.

2 Israeli soldiers wounded in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas clashed in artillery and mortar duels with Israeli troops and allied militiamen in South Lebanon Monday. Security sources said two Israeli soldiers were wounded.

The United States currently pays for some 75 per cent of the Arrow project, which was part of the scrapped Star Wars programme.

Mr. Clinton thanked the president for his support and said Israel would continue negotiations with its Arab neighbours, but he did not mention the recent crisis sparked by Friday's clashes between Palestinian police and demonstrators which left 16 dead.

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(Continued on page 7)

Ukrainian banknotes used as toilet paper

TEHRAN (AP) — Three Iranian diplomats and a news photographer were tortured and then murdered following their abduction during Lebanon's civil war, a Tehran newspaper said Monday. The Keyhan International denied Iran's official version the four were still alive in its editorial about the Beirut trial of Samir Geagea, the former head of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, on charges of murdering fellow Christians.

The three diplomats and a photographer with the official Iranian news agency IRNA and their Shiite Muslim Lebanese driver went missing at an LF checkpoint in north Lebanon on July 4, 1982. "The hostages were dismembered, burnt alive, or to pieces. There is no way they could still be alive," the English-language daily said.

Dog prices crash as Beijing mulls exorbitant fees

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese government has decided to ban the import of dogs for pet purposes, a move that has caused a sharp drop in prices.

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(Continued on page 7)

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Volume 19 Number 5774

Crown Prince meets Hurd, Rifkind

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was Monday the guest of honour at a lunch hosted by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Prince Hassan and Mr. Hurd discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and Europe's role in supporting it. The talks also dealt with Jordanian-British relations and issues of common interest.

British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind hosted a dinner in honour of the Crown Prince, who is currently on a private visit to the United Kingdom. Prince Hassan and the defence secretary discussed bilateral relations in political and defence fields.

Mubarak sees 'fertile land for terrorism'

LONDON (AFP) — The Gaza Strip and Jericho risk becoming "a fertile land for terrorism" that could spread to Europe unless the West helps Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat reduce tensions among his people, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned here Monday. "Fundamentalists everywhere in the world who are earning money from terrorism from the Arab World, Europeans, everywhere, they are going to gather there," he said in an interview with the BBC World Service's News Hour.

"And they are going to be financed by those who are against the present situation. And terrorism will start and will spread out and it will be very dangerous."

Mubarak said that Europe is not far away from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the heart of the whole Mediterranean world, so we have to be very careful," Mr. Mubarak, who met with Prime Minister John Major at the start of an official two-day visit, said donor nations needed to do more than give money to the territories under Palestinian autonomy, they need to help manage its use.

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Sexual harassment of women in public — time to speak out

Special to the Jordan Times

THE YOUNG woman, dressed in an Islamic garment which covers her body entirely, smiles at me with a mixture of astonishment and pity. "No, this never happens to me, never," she insists. Her friend, unveiled, nods, adding that "it only happens to those who provoke it, but not to us."

"Of course it happens, all the time," contends another university student. She wears a headscarf and a long skirt. "The lack of politeness and education does not distinguish between veiled and unveiled women." But, she continues, "you know, it is difficult for us to talk about it — because it is always the woman who will be blamed, not the man."

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Peace not yet a watershed for Palestinian agriculture

By P. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli exploitation of water sources in the West Bank coupled with restrictions placed on Palestinian use of water have severely curtailed the options of the Palestinians in developing agriculture, their mainstay vocation, an Amman meeting was told Monday.

Erratic rains have become the main source of water for the Palestinian farming community in a land once known as one of the most fertile in Middle East, Palestinian experts told a seminar entitled "Optimisation of Water in Agriculture."

The experts, representing institutions not affiliated with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho, presented a very bleak picture of the agriculture situation in the West Bank, more than one year after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed their historic autonomy agreement.

Shawkat Sarsour, an agriculture engineer with the Jerusalem-based Palestine Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), a non-governmental voluntary agency, briefly outlined the main features of agriculture in the West Bank. But, he explained, most of the figures he cited were estimates since the Palestinians had little means to collect more accurate data under occupation.

Mr. Sarsour said the total area of Palestinian land Israel occupied in the 1967 war, including Jerusalem, was 6,440 square kilometres, and the Jewish state has either

confiscated or declared 53 per cent of this area as closed zones.

The total area of cultivated land in the West Bank is 175,000 hectares (1,75,000 dunums) and in the Gaza Strip 18,000 hectares (180,000 dunums), he said.

Agriculture accounts for about 20 per cent of the Palestinians' gross domestic product (GDP) and employs one fifth of the Palestinian labour force. The bulk of the agricultural land is rainfed, a natural result of the denial or restricted access to water for irrigation purposes.

The overall features of the land, the different climates, the availability of experienced personnel and, above everything, the Palestinians' attachment to their land make it highly possible that in a state of freedom of options and access to water, the Palestinians would be able to develop their farming sector quite well, Mr. Sarsour said.

"The lack of water poses one of the major obstacles for expanding the areas of irrigated land since water monitoring and planning is linked directly to the Israeli occupation authorities," said Mr. Sarsour.

According to Mohammad Al Tourshan, another PARC engineer, Israel is using about 80 per cent of the replenishable water in the West Bank to serve Israeli towns and cities while denying the Palestinians any right to dig new wells and limiting the amount of water that the Palestinians could pump from existing wells.

"Excessive digging by Israel also affects the productivity of springs," another

source of water for the Palestinians, and increases the salinity of water available from the springs, Mr. Sarsour said.

Many of the water wells in the Jordan Valley have been closed by the Israelis citing "security reasons," he said.

Figures made available to the Jordan Times showed that the West Bank holds water resources that could safely yield around 600 million cubic metres of water every year but the 1.2 million Palestinians in the West Bank get about 120 million cubic metres per year. The 120,000 settlers the West Bank consume 65 million cubic metres and Israel pumps the rest to beyond the "green line."

The per capita consumption of water among Israeli Jews is 13 times more than the Palestinians in the West Bank, which meets 25 per cent of the Jewish state's overall water needs.

Seven-five per cent of water used in Israel (1,700 million cubic metres per year) is consumed by the agricultural sector (1,275 million cubic metres) while the Palestinian farming community uses 57 per cent (70 million cubic metres) of its total annual water consumption (123 million cubic metres) for agriculture.

No significant studies have been made of the options; nor is any estimate of the costs involved.

The PARC was established in 1982 by a group of Palestinian agricultural engineers who sought to offer what they could to improve the agriculture situation in the West Bank. It maintains offices in many towns in the West Bank and depends on returns from cooperative projects and external aid.

Israel uses five per cent for industrial purposes (85 million cubic metres) while the Palestinian use four per cent (five million cubic metres).

Domestic consumption in Israel (340 million cubic metres) accounts for 20 per cent of the Jewish state's annual use while the Palestinians use 39 per cent (48 million cubic metres) for agriculture.

The experts study Chephren pyramid for renovation

CAIRO (AFP) — Nine Egyptian and Italian archaeological experts have climbed the 4,500-year-old Chephren Pyramid to inspect damage from a 1992 earthquake and natural decay, an Italian diplomat said Friday.

Seven Italians and two Egyptians scaled the 136-meter high pyramid Friday to survey its four sides and tip, said Giovanni Valenza, technical advisor at the Italian embassy here.

"The idea is to see first hand the situation... for restoration to avoid the collapse of the most unstable stones," Mr. Valenza said, adding that the climb should last about a week.

The sarcophagus of Chephren, who ruled ancient Egypt during the fourth dynasty (2620-2575 B.C.), was discovered in 1818 by Giovanni Battista Belzoni, an Italian amateur explorer.

With a base of 210 metres, the Chephren pyramid is the second largest of the three Giza pyramids, in the suburbs of Cairo. The largest is the great Pyramid of Cheops.

Chephren's father —

which stands at 137 metres and has a base of 230 metres.

Chephren is the only Giza pyramid to have retained parts of its original limestone casing at its top.

Unlike other ancient Egyptian pyramids, Chephren was built with stones of various sizes and types which has led to deterioration, Mr. Valenza said.

"Some stones are protruding without any support because the lower stones have been washed away or blown away," he said.

In addition, the 5.4 Richter scale earthquake that rocked Cairo in 1992 damaged the pyramid's tip.

"Some slabs (of limestone) on top rotated when the earthquake struck," Mr. Valenza said, adding that the damage was so obvious it could be seen with binoculars from the foot of the pyramid.

The stones need "a little support underneath them," he said, adding the support should be limestone "like the ancient Egyptians used," and not cement.

The archeologists will also examine the possibility of constructing a staircase similar to those used by firemen for renovations.

The staircase will include a conveyor belt to transport materials needed for renovation work, Mr. Valenza said.

They will also draw up a "scientific document" of the pyramid's surfaces, which can be used by Egyptian antiquities officials for future restoration projects, Mr. Valenza said.

The full study should take about two months, after which the Egyptian government will get renovation work underway.

The Italian team's work project to help in the restoration of two other ancient Egyptian monuments damaged in the earthquake: the Al Ghuri mosque in Cairo's Islamic district, and the Coptic Mo'alaka Church, Mr. Valenza said.

The story is concentrating on everything from cover-up to the very top right down to individuals on the ground conducting activities that should have been stopped.

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Ruling party election throws Nepal into turmoil

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's ruling Congress Party staged a late comeback Monday in general elections, cutting heavily into the Communists' lead and throwing the Himalayan kingdom into political confusion.

"It is not a stable situation and it is unclear and uncertain," said Lok Raj Baral, political science professor at Tribhuvan University in the capital Kathmandu.

Congress, which had lagged behind the Communist Party by as many as two dozen seats in early returns from last Tuesday's parliamentary polls, dramatically narrowed their rivals' lead to six, with six races yet to be decided.

With results reported in 199 constituencies, the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) had 86 seats to Congress's 90.

The Communists still looked likely to win a razor-thin plurality but it was unclear if they would find a coalition partner to give them a working majority of at least 103.

The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) emerged as a political wild card, winning 20 seats — 16 more than it held in the outgoing parlia-

ment.

RPP's leaders governed the kingdom for three decades under a party system which crumbled in 1990 following pro-democracy demonstrations led by Congress and the Communists.

In the last elections in 1991, won by Congress, the RPP was on the political fringe, but it now enjoys a stronger bargaining position.

"We will cooperate with anybody with whom our policies are compatible," RPP spokesman Kamal Thapa said. "I don't rule out the possibility of us supporting the Congress or the UML depending on the policies they adopt."

Congress had conceded defeat to the Communists several days ago, saying they would sit in opposition.

But Congress President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said Monday his party could now catch up to the UML, giving the outgoing rulers the chance to form a coalition government.

"We will explore all possibilities," he said. "We will not leave any option."

UML accused Congress of rigging the final races to cut the Communists' lead, and said Congress had no moral

right to form a government because the UML had the most seats.

"A tense political situation may emerge if the Nepali Congress by hook or by crook want to form the government," UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal said.

"In that case it will not be a stable government because a government which is formed by means of open rigging and blatant violation of all norms of election and democracy cannot sustain and cannot command the respect of the masses."

In the event of a hung parliament, Nepal's four-year-old constitution requires King Birendra to name a prime minister able to form a workable coalition government.

If no lawmaker can command a majority, then the king must choose the leader of the party with the most seats. If a coalition fails to win a vote of confidence within 30 days, fresh polls must be called within six months.

The UML has explored coalition possibilities with Congress dissidents who triggered the snap poll by abandoning Prime Minister Girija

Prasad Koirala in a confidence vote in July.

But it was unclear if the dissidents wanted to break away from Mr. Koirala or if under parliamentary rules they could do so.

The UML's Nepal said he met the head of the Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party, with four seats, and the splinter Communist group "assured critical and conditional support."

Mr. Baral said the shape of any coalition would depend on moves by Congress and the RPP in coming days.

"The elections which were held by the prime minister seeking a mandate for stability have come otherwise, leading to every possibility of political instability," Mr. Baral said.

The Nepalese prime minister Monday tendered his resignation to King Birendra at the royal palace following the humiliating defeat of his party, a source close to the premier said.

Mr. Koirala was elected to the lower house of parliament on Nov. 15 and said he would not lead the new government if his Nepali Congress (NC) party could not muster a majority to form a government.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (left) lays a wreath at the mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, the founder of Communist Vietnam, in Hanoi, Mr. Jiang, who is also Chinese Communist Party secretary general, is on a four-day official visit in Vietnam (AFP photo)

Jiang sidesteps Spratlys in Vietnam visit

HANOI (AFP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin sidestepped troubling disputes with Vietnam over disputes in the South China Sea, and spent Monday on ceremonial visits that looked back to a time of warmer relations between the neighbours.

But while the Chinese seemed eager to avoid the issue of conflicting claims of sovereignty over the Spratly and Paracel Islands, the Vietnamese pushed it forward by reminding Beijing of Hanoi's position.

The local Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan juxtaposed front-page pictures of Mr. Jiang's arrival with a smaller photo of singers entertaining Vietnamese sailors on the Spratly Islands.

Press coverage of Vietnam's local elections Sunday also put unusual emphasis on voters going to the polls in the barely populated South China Sea islands.

Mr. Jiang, however, made it clear that the Chinese would prefer to play a waiting game on the Spratlys, moving ahead with other issues while pledging to resolve the problem peacefully.

"There is no denying that there exist problems between China and Vietnam," Mr. Jiang told Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh at a banquet late Sunday.

But the Chinese president added: "We should try not to let these problems, which cannot be settled immediately, stand in the way of the development of relations between the countries."

Rival maritime claims, as well as long-running problems over their land border, have lent a permanent sour note to relations. Yet the world's two largest Communist states have expanded economic links since resuming diplomatic relations in 1991.

After talks with leaders here, Mr. Jiang, the first head of China's Communist Party to visit Vietnam, spent the day harking back to the era when the two sides described themselves as being "as close as teeth and lips."

He laid wreaths at a war memorial and at the mausoleum of independence hero Ho Chi Minh, once a close ally of China's.

Mr. Jiang also held a meeting with retired Premier Pham Van Dong, who governed Vietnam for nearly 30 years.

Mr. Jiang later visited a tobacco factory built with Chinese aid in 1957 and the Temple of Literature, a university founded along Confucian lines nearly a thousand years ago.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, a member of

the more than 130-strong delegation travelling with Mr. Jiang, held talks with his counterpart, Nguyen Manh Cam.

Richard Gere 'ready to divorce' Cindy Crawford

LONDON (AP) — Richard Gere was lying low in London, after a tabloid newspaper published photos purportedly showing a 22-year-old model making early-morning getaways from his apartment. The weekly *News Of The World* quoted an unidentified friend of Gere as saying: "He thinks Laura is very sweet and sees his future with her." Three photos showed Bailey leaving what the newspaper said was Gere's posh apartment building in London's Chelsea area. In one picture, she is hopping over a garden wall to the yard of the building next door. Her facial expression is not easily vexed. There was no sign of Gere at his apartment after the report appeared. Bailey has been spotted on the street early in the morning in the past, but she has said that she was visiting a girlfriend who lives next door. Gere, a Buddhist, met Bailey at a party thrown last July by his religious mentor and friend, the Dalai Lama, the *News Of The World* said. It said that Crawford, 28, and Gere, 45, had placed their \$5.5 million Hollywood home up for sale, and that they want an amicable divorce. "It's in the hands of lawyers and he keeps bugging them to sort it out," the paper quoted the unidentified "friend" as saying. Gere is in Britain filming *First Knight*, in which he plays Sir Lancelot opposite Sean Connery's King Arthur.

Some Chinese maps can get you lost

BEIJING (AP) — If near-sighted shoppers start going to Tiananmen Gate looking for new eyeglasses or people start trying to order food from the army guards at Mao Tse-Tung's Mausoleum, blame it on the maps. Maps of Beijing and Shanghai are full of errors like the ones that put the Daming Spectacles shop on top of the old city gate that faces Tiananmen Square and mislabel the final resting place of revolutionary leader Mao as Yushengzhai, a restaurant that specialises in beef and is located down the road from the mausoleum, according to a report in Monday's *Guangming Daily*. The Shanghai government office in charge of maps has received scores of letters pointing out more than 150 errors in the official Shanghai city street map. Errors in Beijing maps include moving 2,000-square-kilometre (1,240-square-mile) Changping County, a community of 300,000 people, from the outskirts of Beijing to the next province, and mislabeling the Beijing Library as the Beijing Drawing Gallery and the China History Museum as the Wangfujing branch store.

The errors are not limited to city maps of China. Maps of China incorrectly label Hainan Island in the South China Sea and world maps have international borders in the wrong places, the report said. The government has issued several laws governing map production, but they are not often enforced. With a 50 per cent profit margin on map-making and the increasing need for maps as Chinese become more mobile, it is easy to see why the map market has gotten out of control, the paper said. The Beijing City Planning Research Institute every year uncovers more than 10 cases of illegally printed maps. In some cases, they are patched together, cut-and-paste-style, from existing maps on the market. In other cases, printing firms use their connections to get copies of approved maps to reprint.

The CSCE, born out of the 1975 Helsinki Accords, has long focused on human rights issues, but a loose structure and limited powers have prevented the organisation from taking on greater European security challenges.

U.K. on alert for invasion of plastic ducks

LONDON (R) — An armada of 29,000 plastic toy ducks are bobbing their way towards the coast of Britain, the *Times* newspaper said Monday. "Britain should be put on duck alert," Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer, an oceanographer from Seattle, Washington who has been using computer simulation to track the toys, told the newspaper. The animals, which also include some blue turtles, red beavers and green frogs, were washed overboard in heavy seas from a container ship in the North Pacific in January 1992. They had been frozen in the Arctic Sea but are expected to be carried south by the Gulf Stream, completing their 12,000-mile voyage on the British and Irish coasts.

State tried to kill Mandela in 1969

NEW YORK (R) — Nelson Mandela was nearly killed in 1969 while a political prisoner in a state-sponsored assassination plot disguised as an escape attempt, the South African president says in his forthcoming autobiography.

Mr. Mandela, in an excerpt of his autobiography appearing in the issue of *Time* magazine

zine hitting newsstands this week, said he thwarted the plot by refusing to cooperate in the escape bid.

"It was not the last time, they would try to eliminate me," he said in the excerpt.

In an excerpt published in Britain, Mr. Mandela said his estranged wife, Winnie, showed poor judgment over

her use of private bodyguards but was not guilty of any serious offences.

Mr. Mandela described the assassination plot in a section recounting his time in South Africa's Robben Island Prison. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1960 for high treason.

France proposes EU fund to solve disputes

PARIS (R) — France, the next president of the European Union, Monday proposed creating an EU fund to help potential future members in Central and Eastern Europe settle border and minority disputes.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, who initiated an EU drive for a European stability pact, told a seminar at the French parliament that good neighbourly relations were a condition for EU membership since the union did not want to import conflicts.

The speech by the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate — under house arrest in Burma for six years — was read by former Philippines President Corazon Aquino, a

democracy campaigner who led a 1986 popular revolt that toppled the late Ferdinand Marcos from 20 years in power.

"In the speech to an Asia-Pacific regional conference of the U.N. agency World Commission on Culture and Development (WCCD), Ms. Suu Kyi challenged the view among authoritarian governments that economic growth was paramount to democratic

reforms.

She said this "can be a recipe for disaster."

She slammed arguments that democracy was a Western concept alien to indigenous peoples of Asia and Africa and that democratic rights should give way to economic development.

A rapid democratic transition strengthening of civil society is necessary to develop societies genuinely she

said.

The war in the former

Yugoslavia has shown that "the CSCE is the organisation of the future because it has in its broader mandate the ability to deal with territorial disputes and ethnic tensions, and NATO does not," he said.

French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur appeared to be responding to U.S. pressure for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to take new steps towards enlargement at its ministerial council next month.

Mr. Balladur told a seminar on European stability in Paris: "The aim is not to speed up the enlargement of security bodies such as NATO or the WEU. Everyone is well aware that the sudden inclusion of new countries in these alliances could cause more instability than stability on our continent."

He made no direct reference to the U.S. drive for the Atlantic alliance to begin discussing with Central and East European countries "the how and why but not yet the who and when" of NATO membership.

In Dende, military forces detained 39 people and navy gunmen vowed to remain in the district until every house believed to be a refuge for drugs and arms trafficking was searched.

The main thing is not the number of arrests, drugs or arms seized but rather that drug dealers leave the shantytowns," said Colonel Luis Ceasario.

In Dende, one 35-year-old man, Jose Luis Nunes Sobrinho, was hospitalised, suffering from a gunshot wound he claimed to have received from government troops.

Residents interviewed earlier in some of the shantytowns said the number of drug dealers and buyers had fallen markedly since the army began Operation Rio Friday.

"Even though the troops left Friday after patrolling the neighbourhood, the drug buyers disappeared," said one resident in Andara, one of the seven hillside shantytowns where nearly four million of the city's 9.5 million residents live.

During the operation, Mangueira and Dende were sealed off by army tanks and barbed wire while some 1,600 soldiers and navy gunmen combed the area.

Checkpoints were also set up in other parts of the state to prevent drug dealers from fleeing the region.

PARIS (Agencies) — France said Monday that a hasty enlargement of the NATO alliance or the Western European Union (WEU) to include Central European states could lead to more, rather than less, instability in Europe.

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A ministry statement issued with the newly declassified documents apologised

for not passing on the cable. "There is no room for excuse," it said.

It was the ministry's first official recognition that Japanese diplomats had blundered over the start of war.

Many historians say that if the document announcing the end of the negotiations had been delivered earlier, the United States could have anticipated attack and taken precautions at its bases.

The Pearl Harbour raid by Japanese carrier-based planes in the early morning hours of Dec. 7 dealt a devastating blow to the U.S. Fleet.

According to the documents, the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo sent a total of 13 secret memoranda on the negotiations to the Washington

embassy. All of them were decoded there by a telegrapher by the evening of Dec. 6.

The telegrapher then left the embassy to attend a farewell party for a returning diplomat. First Secretary Shozo Okumura, who was supposed to type a clean copy, went home, leaving the work until the following day.

A top-secret 14th memorandum, which announced Tokyo's withdrawal from the talks, was dispatched on the morning of Dec. 7 and decoded by noon Washington.

A ministry investigation primarily blamed Mr. Okumura for the delay, saying there was "professional negligence" at the government establishment abroad (the embassy).

It was supposed to be delivered by 1 p.m. on Dec. 7, just 25 minutes before Japanese warplanes started

Soldiers camp for 2nd night in Rio slum

RIO DE JANEIRO (Agencies) — Brazilian army soldiers were preparing to spend a second night occupying one of Rio de Janeiro's crime-ridden shantytowns in the military's three-week-old crackdown on drug-related crime

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Driving the point in

THINGS ARE maybe shaping up for road safety in Jordan if all the local rhetoric about making driving in the country safer for both drivers and pedestrians comes to fruition. Jordan has lately witnessed a sharp upsurge in road accidents that claimed unprecedented numbers of lives. The concerned authorities appear to be responding to the carnage on our streets but we wonder how effective or even serious the response is. For example, the Traffic Department is currently conducting monthly programmes that aim to rehabilitate taxi drivers who have developed a habit of flouting every safe driving code in the country. The organisers of this "reeducational" campaign hope to awaken irresponsible drivers to the need to operate their vehicles in accordance with applicable road safety guidelines. This suggests that the crux of the problem we face is strictly a matter of reeducating drivers as to what is acceptable and what is not when it comes to driving on national roads and highways. We beg to differ on this score.

All Jordanians with a valid driving licence know only too well what the rules of the game are. The problem with so many of them is not lack of knowledge about what constitutes reasonable driving habits but rather the actual disrespect for the laws. Who among the so many reckless drivers around does not know that a stop sign means real stopping instead of the current interpretation of such signs as mere decorations or better still as a licence to proceed forward at full speed? We also do not understand the apparent concern of our authorities to educate drivers when traffic policemen themselves have yet to take seriously all driving rules and not only speeding and illegal parking. Everything else seems to be ignored, including orderly driving within lanes (when they are visible), observing the right of way and other driving courtesies that are nowhere to be found in the Jordanian driving culture. It is going to take more than two days of lecturing to transform dangerous driving in this country into a safe one. Maybe the seminar on safe driving, that the police department will conduct next week in cooperation with the National Swedish Institute for Consultation, will open new avenues for making driving in Jordan less hazardous.

What the country actually needs is a new driving culture that is safe and courteous. This is no easy task, but a beginning must be made. Perseverance on the part of the concerned authorities in making driving in the country safe is a sine qua non for any real change. When the traffic police themselves are ill-motivated and do not care less about any traffic violation except speeding and illegal parking, the central problem lies with the police and not the public. Unless our guests for next week, the Swedish experts, fully comprehend the essence of the problem, their contributions may not be as useful as we all hope it will be. What we need is not abstract advice but down-to-earth remedies that are commensurate with our pressing needs.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday demanded that the Ministry of Industry and Trade set and apply specifications and measurements that can safeguard public health and protect Jordanian people's interests. Tareq Masa'weh cited the example of the shipment of tomatoes that was Sunday returned to Jordan after failing to pass Israeli quality control and specifications tests saying that bad quality products, including tomatoes, are sold daily in the Jordanian markets which are not subject to control of any kind. Many of the locally-produced goods and imported commodities are of a quality far below the internationally-accepted levels of specifications, including foodstuff which are consumed in Jordan, said the writer. He recalled that a shipment of contaminated rice and coffee was consumed here as were consignments of meat unfit for human consumption. Even cars that are sold in Jordan are lower quality than those sold in other Arab states, he said. There can be no real protection to people's health through regular Health Ministry regulations, said the writer who demanded the Ministry of Industry and Trade set specifications which can help control all kinds of items sold in the Kingdom.

AL DUSTOUR daily reflected on the Jordanian-Qatari relations in light of a visit to Doha by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and talks held in Jordan by the Qatari Information Minister Dr. Hamad Kuwari. The visit and the talks, said the paper, usher in a new era of fruitful cooperation between the two sister countries thanks to the directives of the leaderships in the two countries. While expressing our deep satisfaction and delight over these developments, we can only hope that Qatari-Jordanian relations would set ideal example for the other Arab countries, including the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, continued the paper. It said that Jordan hopes that the strong ties between Qatar and Jordan would open the door for similar relations between Jordan and the rest of the Gulf states so that they can together lead the way towards reestablishing solidarity among Arab states.

The View from Fourth Circle

Fighting to avoid the sad margins of history

The recent clashes in Gaza between Palestinians for and against the PLO-Israel accord are not only about Hamas, Yasser Arafat, Islam and the ideology of the majority of Palestinians. They are about something far deeper, for they have ushered in the Palestinian hour of historical reckoning. The next half year or so is likely to indicate whether the Palestinians are a viable people who can exercise their right to a sovereign state, or whether they are only a demographic limb of the greater Arab World that got caught and was snipped off in the claws of European colonialism and Zionism.

The shock of Palestinians being killed by other Palestinians is real, but is rather overplayed in the media. Palestinians have been killing each other for many years, as have Arabs in many other parts of the Middle East. There are few if any Arab countries where the police and army have not routinely attacked their own people in the name of security and development. This is regrettable, but not unusual in the Arab World.

The real cause of the shock about the fighting in Gaza is what it suggests to us about the Palestinian future. It holds out the unimaginable spectre of perpetual marginalisation, of a people relegated to the peripheral status of a semi-free, semi-caged, quasi-nation ruled by the political laws of petty local gangsterism. It is an ugly but still possible prospect.

The most important underlying reason for the violence in Gaza is the sudden clarity of how weak is the PLO-Israel peace process, and how limited are the Palestinian gains from it to date, in the face of two other factors that now require attention: the successful Jordanian-Israeli peace accord, and the option of violent resistance against Israelis, as Hamas and Islamic Jihad have shown. Most Palestinians compare their predicament with the successful Jordanian peace treaty and they find the situation quite humiliating; they are not necessarily angry at Jordan, but rather at Israel and at their own Palestinian leaders. Further Palestinian resentment is fuelled by another huge and compelling contrast: on the one hand, Israel treats Yasser Arafat as an errand boy, subjects him to demeaning demands, and tells him he will have no more gains to show for his diplomacy until he fulfills Israel's demands; and on the other hand, Palestinian Islamists strike fear into the hearts of Israelis by bombing them in their own homes.

The inability of the PLO to significantly improve the life quality of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation has emphasised the PLO-Israel peace accord's real weaknesses, while neutralising its potential strengths. Perhaps this could not have been avoided, given the imbalance between

Israel's strong negotiating position and the frail Palestinian position. Nevertheless, fourteen months after it was signed the PLO-Israel accord appears to most Palestinians to be an ignoble and humiliating document, little more than a cruel, empty promise. Arafat and Company appear unable to make it work any better than it has to date, and the trigger-happy performance of the Palestinian police has only made Arafat look more brutish and repugnant in the eyes of many of his own people.

This situation has been exploited by the Palestinian Islamists, though their position remains weakened by the fact that they cannot offer a credible alternative other than violent resistance. Nevertheless, for many Palestinians facing the choice between Arafat's slow motion surrender and the Islamists' heart-throbbing resistance, the Islamists look much more attractive.

Arafat has three obvious options, and one not so obvious. The three obvious ones are, a) cracking down further on the Islamists (which will only make them stronger and more popular), b) speeding up the implementation of the peace accord by getting the Israelis to withdraw, holding the Palestinian elections and securing the international funds pledged for improving the Palestinian economy (which would revive his political credibility but perhaps not fully), and, c) keeping the situation as it is (which would slowly see his position become totally untenable).

The slightly less obvious option is for Arafat to address his two key partners, both of whom are hurting him, namely the Palestinian Islamists and the Israeli government. He might consider calling a Palestinian national conference, identifying the weaknesses in the peace accord, and then joining forces with the Islamists and demanding from Israel that the accords be renegotiated. The aim of reopening negotiations would be to address those issues that remained open in the current accord, namely settlements, refugees, Jerusalem and final borders and security.

If Arafat can address the weak points of the peace accord and show Israel that he speaks on behalf of all Palestinians, he may be able to bring enough pressure on Israel to secure the concessions he needs. The Israeli government may have good cause to meet him halfway, for Arafat's downfall would also probably mark the downfall of Rabin and his Labour government and the return of a Likud-led government. It is in Israel's interest to see Arafat succeed. Clearly, if Arafat did nothing new in the coming months he could only survive this crisis by becoming an increasingly

autocratic, isolated and violent leader, and he would then surely be thrown out in a coup or a popular revolt.

The precipitous decline of the Palestinian authority in the last half year is not synonymous with the abdication of Palestinian national rights, for many Palestinians do not accept Arafat's leadership or his peace process. The frightening possibility that stares Palestinians in the face, however, is that Palestinian national rights may have little chance of being achieved through any process other than that which Arafat has now launched, because most of the Arab states have made it clear that they are prepared to make peace with Israel even if the Palestinian problem remains unresolved. In other words, the Palestinians are discovering that they may be relegated to a fate along the lines of Lebanon during its civil war, Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia, Iraq and other distressed lands — chronic domestic strife, human suffering, national denial, and the rule of local political gangs, while the rest of the world shrugs its shoulders in emotional sadness but political disinterest.

This prospect is so demeaning for a Palestinian people who have struggled for their rights for nearly a century that it is unlikely to materialise. Unlike, but still possible, this is why Palestinians are so desperate to get out of their present predicament, even at the risk of using their guns against each other. This is also what is happening in most of the rest of the Arab World, by the way — disenchanted, scared people turn to religion, and even to violence, to challenge or to change their political leaderships and their national policies.

Palestine is doing today what the rest of the Arabs did from the period between 1920 and the 1960s: it's trying to change from a situation of foreign occupation to one of self-rule and independence, and in the process domestic groups are competing for power. The fact that the Palestinians are the last Arabs struggling for independence, while the rest of the region seems to have taken its modern political shape, scares many Palestinians, because they fear that their rights might be sacrificed in the end to the region's obsession with stability and security.

This makes Arafat's challenge all the more urgent. He must improve the terms of the peace accord or implement it more quickly and meaningfully. How he responds to this challenge will largely determine if Palestine moves towards real national independence and rights, or if it slips into the bloody and neglected margins of modern history, where fear, anger and violence are chronic, and nobody cares.

Bank. They say Mr. Arafat has no mandate to rule. Even if Hamas as an organisation vents its wrath on Israel rather than the PLO, they will avenge the deaths.

"There is a possibility of assassinations on both sides, and that could hit Arafat," said Mr. Sarraj, who predicted a rollercoaster of violence and suppression for some time to come.

The prospect of instability could deter those private investors and international donors whose money Mr. Arafat needs to rebuild an economy shattered by occupation and by Israel's refusal for security reasons to allow in Gazan workers.

Just hours before Friday's shooting, the United Nations senior official for Gaza and the West Bank, Terje Larsen, warned donors the peace process and the legitimacy of the Palestinian authority faced potential collapse unless money arrived.

Haidar Abdul Shafi, a former peace negotiator trying to mediate between Hamas and the PLO, blamed Israel for not implementing the deal it signed with Mr. Arafat fully and quickly. Gazans had seen little economic or social benefit from peace and were losing faith in the process, he said.

Asked if Mr. Arafat had lost his legitimacy, Mr. Abdul Shafi was diplomatic. "It is too drastic to say that... The work of the national authority is less than we expected, there are differences all around. (But) we are not silent. We hope things will improve."

Can Arafat survive Gaza shootings?

By Robert Mahoney

Reuter

GAZA — Palestinians had long expected tensions between Islamic opponents of the PLO-Israel peace deal and Yasser Arafat's fledgling government to burst into the open.

But when Arab actually began shooting Arab in the streets of Gaza, birthplace of the uprising against Israel, Palestinians were traumatised.

Threats of revenge for the killing of at least 13 Gazans by Mr. Arafat's police last Friday are now scrawled on walls and predictions of a slide to a Lebanese-style civil war abound.

As the initial shock subsides, Gazans are asking:

— Will the narrow band of Mediterranean coast crammed with one million impoverished and stateless people turn into another Beirut?

— Will the experiment in Palestinian self-rule, cornerstone of entire Arab-Israeli peace process, be undermined?

— Can Arafat survive the killing of his own people?

"We have all the ingredients for a civil war," replies Iyad Sarraj, a psychiatrist and member of a human rights watchdog group.

"Polarisation is so acute, arms are everywhere, tension is high, and more than anything we have undisciplined armies on both sides," he said, referring to Mr. Arafat's security forces and gunmen from the Muslim groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

But he, like many other prominent Gazans, does not believe that the religious and clan differences are as explosive here as in Beirut. Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both foes of Mr. Arafat's peace deal with Israel, have pulled back from the brink of civil strife.

"Hamas is very concerned there be no civil war against Palestinians," said Sayyed Abu Musa'ab, a Hamas official who tried to mediate to cool passions after the

shootings.

Hamas urged its fighters to turn their guns on Israelis, not Palestinians, as radical gunmen and those who had lost relatives vowed vengeance.

The more moderate political elements in Hamas complained to Mr. Arafat that the shooting had weakened them and their attempts to reach a political accommodation with the Palestinian authority.

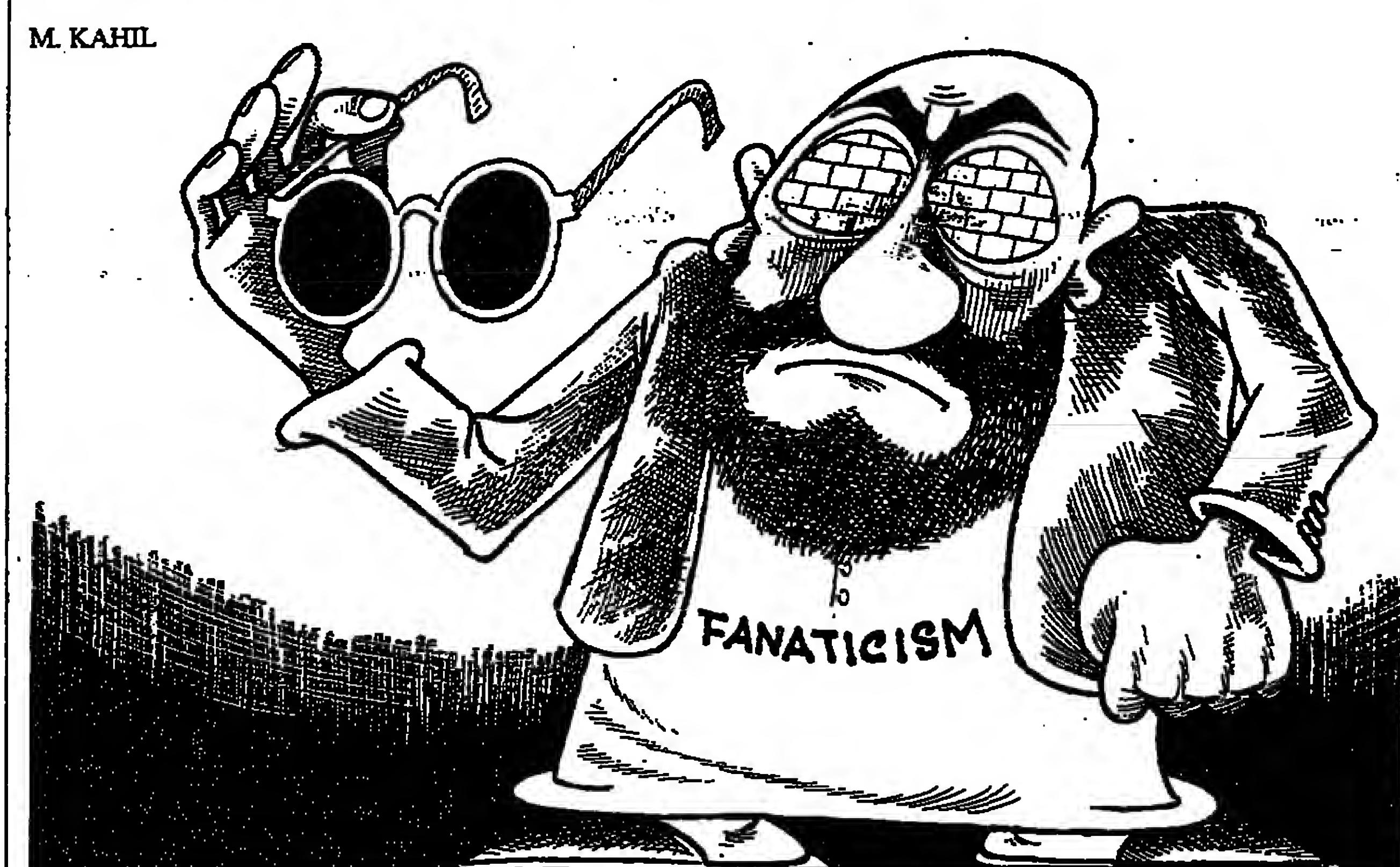
"They do not like the peace process but realise they cannot halt it. They believe Mr. Arafat is the only one who

can steer the Palestinians through the shoals of the first stages of the self-rule deal with Israel.

"If we want influence to shape the outcome we have to talk with Arafat... and continue our struggle against Israel," one Hamas official said.

Such sentiments are

sprung by Hamas radicals



U.S. wants to expand NATO, boost CSCE

By Patrick Worsnip

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States is planning a major shift of emphasis on European security policy aimed at quickly expanding NATO while boosting the 53-nation European security conference, U.S. officials say.

They say the aim is to better address the needs of former Soviet-bloc states that have thrown off communism and are now in a hurry to reach Western economic prosperity levels and assure their security in the post-cold war world.

Since the Berlin Wall fell five years ago, these states have been clamouring to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the European Union and any other Western grouping that will have them.

Until recently, the U.S.-led Western alliance had been holding them at arm's length, offering them "part-

nership" with NATO but being vague on when they can actually join.

Now, the idea is to admit the first wave of new members, widely expected to comprise Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, sooner rather than later — in three to five years, U.S. officials say.

NATO ministerial meetings early next month are expected to agree guidelines for taking on new members, which will then face a difficult period of adjusting to alliance requirements on equipment and training, as well as financial costs.

But State Department officials say they have persuaded the Pentagon to stop dragging its feet over such issues. "The department of defence was saying up to two weeks ago that anything before the year 2000 was unrealistic," one official said. "They're not saying that now."

One of the main problems with NATO expansion

has long been that Russia, which is highly unlikely to be offered membership, strongly opposes the inclusion of its former Warsaw Pact allies in the alliance.

But Washington now maintains this is not an insuperable obstacle. "Key people (in Russia) have accepted the fact that NATO expansion is inevitable," said an administration official. "All they want is for the process to happen in a transparent manner."

If so, there has been little public sign of it so far. "What we are objecting to is expansion of NATO in the direction of the borders of the Russian federation, without giving the Russian rights, the CSCE has since the end of the cold war been held up as a possible super-organisation to control European security."

Born in the 1970s as a forum for debating East-West detente and human rights, the CSCE has since the end of the cold war been held up as a possible super-organisation to control European security.

Russia, which belongs to CSCE, would like it to dominate over NATO.

But the CSCE has so far failed to live up to its promise, held back from effective action by its rule of

near-consensus and by the determination of Western European states.

If

the European Union was moving quicker, these guys wouldn't even be trying to get into NATO.

What they need is the economics," said a senior official. The EU is not expected to admit the East Europeans before the turn of the century.

Enter the other "track"

of the new U.S. policy —

expanding the role of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Born in the 1970s as a

forum for

debating East-West detente and human rights, the CSCE has since the end of the cold war been held up as a possible super-organisation to control European security.

Officials say as evidence

of this that a tussle within

the U.S. administration

over whether President

Clinton should attend a

CSCE summit in Budapest

Dec. 5-6 has been decided

in favour of him going.

The officials are

Features

By Ramzi G. Khouri

history

Majali returns from Doha

(Continued from page 1)

strong bilateral ties based on mutual respect and advocated the cause of safeguarding the sovereignty of all states in the region and underlined the need for non-interference in the internal affairs of any country by another," it said.

"The two countries stressed the need for resorting to international laws and the International Court of Justice as a means to settle disputes among countries of the region so that higher national interests can be safeguarded and inter-Arab confidence deepened," it added.

The communiqué said the two sides discussed ending the Iraqi people's sufferings. "They reaffirmed the need for safeguarding Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and praised Baghdad's recent recognition of Kuwait in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution

833, voicing hope that the decision would signal the beginning of the return of peace, security and stability to the Gulf region," it said.

The two sides reviewed the situation in Bosnia and voiced support for the Bosnian people in their ordeal and condemned Serbian aggression on the Muslim people.

They appealed to the international community to help put an end to aggression and implement U.N. resolutions.

The two sides tackled preparations for an Islamic countries' summit meeting due to be held in Morocco and reviewed topics on its agenda.

Dr. Majali voiced appreciation of the hospitality accorded to the Jordanian delegation during the visit and both sides voiced their pride in the Qatari and the Jordanian leaderships, expressing desire to pursue efforts in coordinating policies in different fields.

Rabin wins U.S. pledge

(Continued from page 1)

anything on that would undermine the possibility of the parties making peace. I think that ought to be the position that all Americans take."

U.S. foreign aid has come under fire from Republicans who are expected to make big cuts when they take over Congress next year.

Mr. Rabin had warned his cabinet following the Republicans' November 8 sweep of the congressional elections that the United more isolationist and "less inclined to pay out foreign aid."

But Israel's \$3 billion in annual aid is considered safe for the time being, as is Egypt's \$2 billion package, since they are the main pillars of U.S. policy which are expected to hold steady under the new Republican congressional leadership.

What Mr. Rabin is hoping for, however, are extra funds to support Yasser Arafat in his struggle against the challenge by Islamic fundamentalists.

The Israeli leader is to meet Thursday with Mr. Arafat in Madrid on his way back from a meeting of the PLO's executive and rights committee in the occupied territories.

negotiations resume talks on self-rule elections and an armistice in the occupied West Bank next week.

An Israeli official said Mr. Rabin is seeking emergency contributions from donors, who have so far released only \$100 million of the \$700 million pledged for Palestinian self-rule for 1994.

Mr. Rabin on Monday accused Israeli hardliners of trying to sabotage his peace moves with Syria by lobbying in the United States against deploying American troops on the Golan Heights.

"Heed not the stupid, empty words being heard today as if out of concern for the Americans (but) which emerge from a desire to sabotage the chance of peace," he said in Washington remarks broadcast on by Israel Radio.

Israeli media said three leading Israeli hardliners were trying to discourage U.S. lawmakers from backing any presence of U.S. troops on the Golan, even as monitors in a future Israeli-Syrian peace deal.

Kuwait, Russia sign deal

(Continued from page 1)

Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The emir's information minister, Sheikh Saad Al Sabah, said there was "total agreement on and understanding of all issues discussed."

The Russian official leaves Tuesday morning to the United Arab Emirates, the third leg of his Gulf tour that started in Saudi Arabia. He will also visit Oman.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister was quoted on Mon-

day as saying Russia is reassuring Gulf states it wants Iraq to comply with the U.N. sanctions and does not just want them lifted.

Prince Saud Al Faisal, after meeting with Mr. Chernomyrdin on Sunday, was quoted by Al Hayat newspaper as saying that Russian efforts "are not to lift sanctions against Iraq as much as to make Iraq implement all Security Council resolutions."

"This is obvious not only to the kingdom (Saudi Arabia) and Russia but also to Iraq," he told the London-based newspaper.

Time to speak out

(Continued from page 1)

teraction is interpreted as sexual harassment depends on who says what under which circumstances. It is also a culture-specific issue."

But when a woman says no, she means no, and that is what many men do not want to understand or accept. "There is a clear distinction between friendly interaction and sexual harassment, and it is known to the man," says Dr. Amiri.

In her mind, sexual harassment is a way to exclude women. "Indirectly the man is telling the woman that the street is not her place, that her place is the home, if she wants to be respected," Dr. Amiri explains, adding that "in many cases harassment actually leads to the seclusion of women, because parents, out of fear that their daughters might be harassed, lock them up in the home."

Experts underline that sexual harassment of women is a universal phenomenon, to be found in all patriarchal societies. The types and intensity of harassment, however, vary according to cultural circumstances. "In a strongly male-oriented, gender-segregated society, men need to reaffirm their male identity constantly in front of other men, and one way to reaffirm this identity is to prove themselves in front of women," says Dr. Amiri.

The socio-economic situation also has its

Islamic values, which forbid this kind of behaviour towards women on the street."

But what about the application of the penal code under these circumstances?

Ms. Khader, who is also a lawyer and human rights activist, says that quite a few working women have come to her office to ask for advice because they had been sexually harassed at the workplace. "But when it comes to legal action, most of the women refrain from taking their case to court. Many of them are afraid of sullying their reputation or that their families might prevent them from going out to work," says Ms. Khader.

Ms. Khader adds, many women are not able to name witnesses which make legal action virtually impossible.

On the street, women often simply remain silent and try to ignore sexual harassment, because, as they say, the culprit usually feels encouraged rather than intimidated by the woman's protest. On the other hand, if the man is known to the woman's father or brother, he can be beaten up severely, "so the woman thinks twice before causing the man serious trouble," says Basma.

Basma, a nursing student, has her own explanation. "I do not wear a veil, but I care a lot about Islamic values. I think that too many men have abandoned

says.

Other girls and women resort to more drastic measures. "My 17-year-old daughter slapped a young man in the face last week when he made a shameful comment," says Dr. Amiri.

Annie, a secretary, says she beat a man, threw him on the floor and called her brothers when he grabbed her from the back.

Marwa, a bank employee, always carries small teargas sprayer. "I show it to anyone who dares to approach me in a threatening manner, physically or verbally," she says. "For me, verbal harassment is a kind of rape — call it mental rape."

The dimensions of sexual harassment are at times surprising. "A few days ago, I stopped at a traffic light," says Ms. Dajani. "The man in the car next to mine stared at me the entire two or three minutes we had to wait. I felt so embarrassed, I did not know where to look. I felt this was an intrusion of my privacy."

Sometimes even the presence of a husband is not enough to protect the woman from being approached. "Last week, my husband and I took a taxi downtown," says Martha, a British woman married to a Jordanian.

"When we entered the car, the driver asked my husband how much I would take an hour. We got off the taxi immediately."

Nevertheless, a considerable number of women have developed ways to defend themselves. Some like Basma, shout at the man, to draw public attention on him and appeal to his sense of honour: "I often ask them: What would you do if somebody said this to your sister? Many times the man would feel ashamed and rush away," Basma

says.

Few women take the pain of reporting sexual harassment to police. On the other hand, men in particular, but, astonishingly enough also women, often do not recognise sexual harassment as a problem.

"Once a guy tried to kiss a woman inside our faculty building. We reported the event to the dean of the faculty and asked him to take action, but nothing happened," a group of female students at the University of Jordan says.

It is apparently difficult to talk about sexual harassment in public, but women's experiences indicate that it is high time to do so. "I think sexual harassment is a problem, and probably, particularly the women themselves, should speak about it. Newspapers, radio and television should raise the issue," says Basma.

Women should be encouraged to request their rights and to protest against sexual harassment, whenever it occurs, she says. Specific law rules and punishment can have an effect, but are of limited value, since they do not solve the underlying problem.

"Of course, our cultural and moral values are different from others, and every culture judges behaviour according to its own standards," says Dr. Rubeih.

"But we live in the modern world, where women participate naturally in public life. Men, all men, must learn to interact with women on equal and respectful basis, whether at home or in public."

Algerian opposition meets

(Continued from page 1)

The FIS was banned when violence erupted after the military cancelled the January 1992 second round of general elections the fundamentalist party was poised to win.

Mr. Haddam said his group had accepted Sant' Egidio's invitation in order to "exchange our points of view in a

se, and that "terrorism" was the province of the state's security forces.

Mr. Ben Yahya charged that the authorities had imprisoned 17,000 people — most "administrative" detainees — in camps in southern Algeria since 1992.

The Sant' Egidio community and the participants themselves described the symposium as a "first contact" between FIS representatives and the Algerian opposition and stressed that it in no way stood for official negotiations.

The seriousness with which the Algerian authorities viewed the affair was expressed by a weekend summons to the Italian ambassador in Algiers, Patrizio Schmidlin, and to Catholic Nuncio Edmond Ferhat, to the foreign ministry.

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Khalaf says proper interaction with Israel will benefit Jordan

By Samir Shafiq Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf sees the peace era ushering in three main developments: opening to the Israeli economy, change of perception by investors towards the Mideast, and reconstruction of the Palestinian economy after the occupation ends.

Speaking at a business dinner hosted by the Jordan Trade Association Sunday evening, Dr. Khalaf said Jordanian exports face two challenges — how to penetrate the Israeli market and how to cope with the additional competition in traditional markets as these markets will be open to Israeli products as a result of ending the Arab boycott of Israel.

Dr. Khalaf pointed out that it would not be easy to sell in Israel because of intense competition. American and European products enter Israel free of customs because of free trade agreements signed with the countries, she noted.

The minister said that specifications and incentives out-

side the scope of customs could play a role in reducing the volume of industrial goods or produce which could be exported.

Dr. Khalaf briefly described the Israeli economy by highlighting the following features:

1) Total Israeli economic output amounts to \$65 billion, more than the economic output of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Palestine put together. Per capita income exceeds \$13,000 (1992) compared to \$1,120 for Jordan.

2) Industry represents 31 per cent of gross domestic product, one third of industrial output being in the equipment and electronic sector.

3) Products exported by Israel are valued at \$14 billion, of which \$13 billion are industrial. Israeli exports are of high quality as well as competitive as Europe and America import two-thirds of these exports.

4) Israel's economy gets new technical and scientific skills every year through immigration. Immigrants of such skills represent 70 per cent of the total of new immigrants.

5) Free financial assistance



Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf addressing a group of industrialists and businessmen Sunday (Petra photo)

and transfers amount to \$6.5

million each year.

6) Israel spends \$3 billion a

year on developing and up-

grading its infrastructure of

roads, water network, elec-

tricity and industrial parks.

7) Israeli industrial prod-

ucts enjoy total exemption

from customs in the Euro-

pean Union countries and in

the United States as well as

the countries of the Euro-

pean Free Trade Association

(EFTA). Similarly European and American products have a special competitive edge in Israel as they are customs-free.

8) Spending on research

and development in Israel

amounts to 2.4 per cent of

national income. This per-

centage exceeds what each of

France, Britain and Korea

spend on research and de-

velopment.

Despite driving home the message of the Israeli economy being technologically advanced and characterised by stiff competition, Dr. Khalaf saw the Israeli market as one with a consumption volume of \$60 billion.

The minister said she saw large opportunities to export to the Israeli market, due to its size and its geographic location bordering Jordan, and predicted a big increase

in foreign exchange earnings as well as an increase in production and employment.

However, the minister stressed the need to upgrade the quality of Jordanian products and to concentrate on labour-intensive products which benefit from the relative advantage of low wages.

"Investing to improve the quality is well-worth and gives returns that by far ex-

ceed the costs" she asserted.

Dr. Khalaf further elaborated on the challenges facing the openness of Jordan to the Israeli economy by bringing up the disequilibrium in labour matters especially the large wage differential between the two markets.

"Such a differential will give rise to pressure and to economic forces to hire the less costly labour in the production of goods or in providing services," she pointed out.

As such, "these forces will push in one of two directions: Either the labour flows to the market of higher return and thereby Jordanian labourers move to work in Israel or in Palestine, or the capital flows to the low-cost country and thereby Jordan would attract the investment for meeting the need of cheap production costs."

The minister said Jordan's own policies and investment climate would determine which way labour or investment would move.

However, what Dr. Khalaf

saw as more important and much beneficial than the increase of production and em-

ployment, were the opportu-

nities that would result if foreign investments choose Jordan as their base in the region.

Foreign investment is the tool to transfer the technological and efficient productive practices would improve the quality and boost competitiveness," she said.

But she cautioned that there would be fierce competition over foreign investment which would vary depending on the investment climate in the countries of the region.

"We enjoy relative advantages in terms of production costs and financial stability but we have certain shortages in the infrastructure and legal aspects. Our investment environment suffers from a weak public sector and low efficiency which result in vagueness in applying the laws and in unjustified complexities in the work process," Dr. Khalaf conceded.

The minister told the audience that the government was keen to build the right economic structure for the coming era and urged the private sector to play a leading role to enhance the national interests of the Kingdom.

U.S. needs to raise interest rates substantially — OECD

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States must raise interest rates substantially over the year to curtail inflation and keep the economic expansion on track, according to the influential Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In its annual survey of the U.S. economy, the OECD also urged Washington to cut social security pension benefits and tackle growing inequities between rich and poor to help ensure America's long-term financial well-being.

The Paris-based OECD acts as a think tank for rich industrial nations. Its recommendations are not binding but can play a role in shaping economic policy of its members.

The organisation said it expects U.S. economic growth to slow moderately next year — to 2.9 per cent from 3.8 per cent this year — and inflation to accelerate modestly — to 2.8 per cent from 2.1 per cent, as measured by the gross domestic price deflator.

"(Economic) performance has been remarkably good over the past two years, and the fundamentals seem sound for the immediate future," the 26-nation OECD said.

But it warned that an economic bust could follow unless the economy is cooled off through higher interest rates..

"Short-term rates will have to rise substantially more by the end of 1995," it said.

The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed), the nation's central bank, last week raised short-term rates by three-quarters of a percentage in its boldest attack on inflation in 13 years.

The move, which was criticised by labour and corporate leaders as unwarranted, pushed three-month treasury bill rates up to 5.3 per cent.

The OECD sees those rates averaging 6.3 per cent in the second half of 1995 and warned they may need to rise even more to prevent inflation from increasing too much or the dollar falling too far.

That's why it's vital to reduce the government budget deficit, the organisation said. And health care reform alone won't be enough.

"It is in social security that far-sighted policy makers will have to seek further cuts," the OECD said.

That recommendation is sure to raise the ire of President Clinton, who vowed repeatedly during his Democratic Party's recent losing congressional election campaign not to cut social security.

In other politically charged comments, the OECD backed comprehensive health care reform, voiced some doubts about the efficacy of welfare reform and said a radical overhaul of the tax system might be useful to discourage consumption and promote savings.

It also gave poor marks to America's primary and secondary education system, calling it "mediocre best" and saying it did not serve the poor well.

Three Belgian companies are shareholders in the com-

Arab Gulf financial markets need liberalisation

DUBAI (R) — Arab Gulf states need to liberalise share trading and their financial sectors to develop the region's markets, analysts said.

The GCC countries must push for shares to be traded across boundaries forming in effect a regional capital market," Henry Azzam, chief economist at Saudi Arabia's National Commercial bank, said at a banking conference Sunday.

"A regional market would help to avoid the problems encountered because of the small size of the local mar-

kets, pool resources and provide financial institutions with greater placing power," he said.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain.

There are few bond issues partly due to the absence of a regional ratings agency and some GCC governments do not allow foreign or other Gulf banks to operate in their countries.

"(They should) pull down

the barriers separating the already small financial markets of the GCC, which have proven so far to be working basically to the disadvantage of the GCC financial operators," Abdul Wahab Al Tammar, former governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, told the conference.

He said financial institutions should "prepare for a future based on a single GCC market."

But Abdulla Al Saudi, former chief executive of Arab Banking Corp (ABC) said Arab banks continued to suf-

fer from the "parochial interests" of the Gulf countries.

Analysts also said Gulf financial institutions needed to adhere to international standards of accounting and disclosure to boost their credibility.

Jassim Al Mannai, director general of the Arab Monetary Fund, said Gulf states should set up a consistent regulatory framework to encourage a secondary capital market and introduce deposit insurance schemes to boost stability.

Oman begins privatisation of electricity sector

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf state of Oman has started privatising its electricity sector as part of overall reforms to make its economy immune to volatile oil prices, industry sources in the region have said.

A \$70 million company is being established to set up the first major power station to be operated by the private sector while two other similar projects will be carried out soon, sources said.

The United Energy Company (UEC) has started floating around 11 million shares worth \$30 million for local and foreign investors while \$45 million have been subscribed by its founding shareholders.

Three Belgian companies are shareholders in the com-

pany while the International Finance Corporation has contributed around \$4 million, part of its participation in privatisation plans in the Sultanate.

UEC is the first private power company to be created in the Gulf, where most countries have embarked on reforms to offset weak oil prices.

Another ambitious project involves building a pipeline to supply natural gas to India at a cost of more than \$5 billion. But it was not clear if the private sector would be allowed to participate.

Oman has invited scores of companies and private investors from around the world for a conference in Muscat next month to explain its reforms, which it hopes will attract foreign capital.

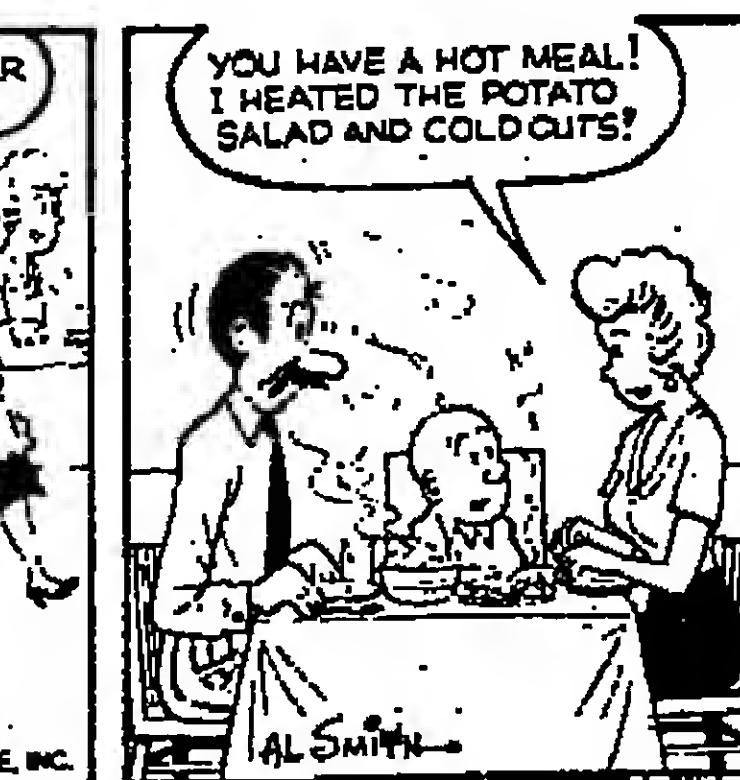
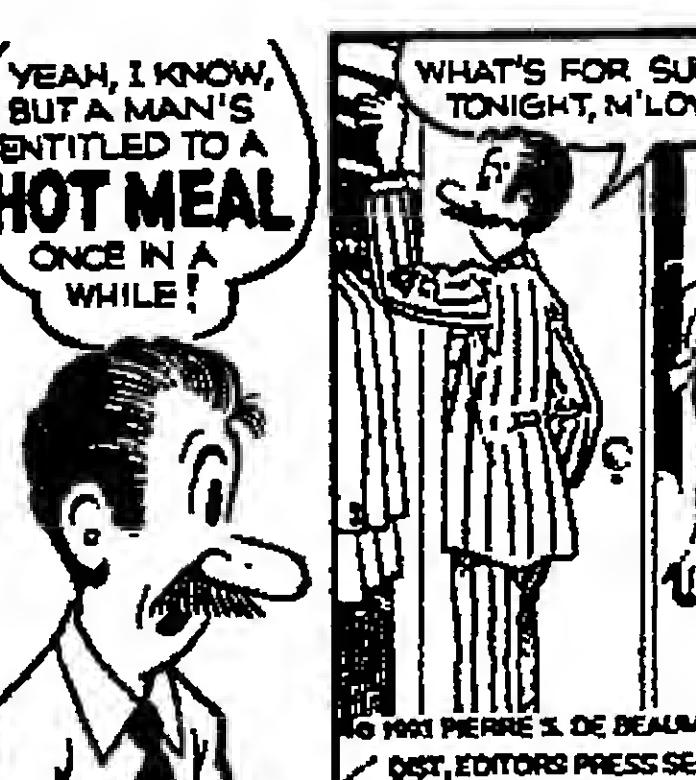
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



THE BETTER HALF®

By Glasbergen
GLASBERGEN



"Renewing your vows should be like renewing your driver's license. There should be a written exam."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

STEAE

KNALF

SMIFLY

SPOGLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " " " " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: PUDGY AMITY THWART DOMINO

Answer: An ambitious cowboy's life is filled with this — GIDDAP AND WHOA

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Gabriela Sabatini returns a shot during her Virginia Slims final against Lindsay Davenport (AFP photo)

Sabatini captures Slims title ending 30-month dry spell

NEW YORK (AP) — After wandering the tennis wastelands for more than 2½ years, Gabriela Sabatini has once again discovered the winning touch. It may have come just in time to save women's tennis.

"It's not just winning the title," Sabatini said after taking the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships Sunday. "It means more the way I won the title, the way I played. I was confident the whole week."

Her return to form was the good news for women's tennis, which has experienced plenty of the other kind.

This was the week that Martina Navratilova retired. Monica Seles is still nowhere to be seen on a tennis court.

Jennifer Capriati has just begun a comeback after being known in the past year for her escapes with police. Steff Graf, while still No. 1, is reportedly ready to undergo surgery on her bad back.

Just when it looked darkest, Sabatini again became a bright light.

Six years ago, Sabatini won this unique 16-player tournament, when she followed two years later by winning the U.S. Open, she was considered to be on the verge of stardom.

Instead, she soon became a "whatever happened to..." and fell from third to ninth in the world.

Her last title came in May 1992, when she won the Italian Open. A year later, she sustained her most shocking loss, bowing in the 1993 French Open quarterfinals to Mary Joe Fernandez afterumping out to what appeared to be an insurmountable 6-1, 5-1 lead.

"That was the toughest one," Sabatini admits. "I was

winning that match so easy and playing great that year. I really thought I had a chance to win the tournament."

"After I lost that match, I was so frustrated, so disappointed, that it didn't go my way that it took me actually a few weeks to forget about it. ... It was really tough, you know, to forget about that and to start playing again, start being focused again."

She solved all those problems Sunday when she beat 18-year-old Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in the only best-of-5-sets final the women play. On this day at Madison Square Garden, it was Davenport who was unable to cope with a plethora of unsolvable problems presented by Sabatini.

"I think when I didn't start off that well, I got a little frustrated, but she was part of the reason," Davenport said. "She was chipping balls low and top-spinning them high, and hitting them short, hitting them deep, and I couldn't get a rhythm, so she was definitely one of the major reasons."

It was at times an odd match, one in which Sabatini always seemed to be in control, but one in which neither player was able to consistently hold serve.

Davenport began the third set by breaking Sabatini at 15, aided by three double-faults, the Argentine's ninth, 10th and 11th of the match. And when she broke Sabatini again in the seventh game, Davenport put the set back on serve.

But she had to serve again with Sabatini leading 5-4. This time, like so many times during the match, she failed to hold serve.

The final point came on a perfectly crafted backhand passing shot set up when Davenport's forehand hit the net and bounded high, that left her vulnerable and standing near the net.

Sabatini came into this tournament unseeded, after defeating Navratilova, Julie Haldor of France, No. 8 Kimiko Date of Japan and Davenport. Sabatini moved up one spot in the world rankings, to eighth.

Davenport said she wasn't the same player who had advanced to the title match by defeating Germany's Anke Huber, fourth-seeded Jana Novotna of Czech Republic and No. 5 Mary Pierce of France. Despite the loss, her ranking rose from seventh to six, switching places with Navratilova.

"This was by far my biggest and my best result," Davenport said. "I made a lot of errors and I was pretty nervous."

"If I could get in this position a little more, I'll feel a little more calm and relaxed out there."

"But this week has taught me that I really like tennis. This is what it's for."

It worked to perfection. One of the biggest hitters in

the women's game when her feet are set, Davenport was kept on the move by Sabatini, who kept changing spins, pace and direction.

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The final point came on a perfectly crafted backhand passing shot set up when Davenport's forehand hit the net and bounded high, that left her vulnerable and standing near the net.

Sabatini came into this tournament unseeded, after defeating Navratilova, Julie Haldor of France, No. 8 Kimiko Date of Japan and Davenport. Sabatini moved up one spot in the world rankings, to eighth.

Davenport said she wasn't the same player who had advanced to the title match by defeating Germany's Anke Huber, fourth-seeded Jana Novotna of Czech Republic and No. 5 Mary Pierce of France. Despite the loss, her ranking rose from seventh to six, switching places with Navratilova.

"This was by far my biggest and my best result," Davenport said. "I made a lot of errors and I was pretty nervous."

"If I could get in this position a little more, I'll feel a little more calm and relaxed out there."

"But this week has taught me that I really like tennis. This is what it's for."

Wheelchair athletes end marathon

ALMA-ATA (R) — A team of physically handicapped men ended a 9,000 kilometres wheelchair "super-marathon" across the former Soviet Union Sunday and urged governments worldwide to recognise the rights and needs of the disabled.

Fifteen paraplegic athletes, representing each of the ex-Soviet republics, began their journey on June 20 in St Petersburg, passed through the capitals of the newly independent states and made it to Alma-Ata five months later.

Hand-pedalling their U.S.-made tricycles in bright sunshine at a fairly steady 20 kilometres per hour on the last leg into town, the team was applauded by bystanders before pulling into a car park.

They were greeted by a brass band, folk singers and civic leaders bearing traditional gifts of bread and salt. The officials made brief speeches praising the team's manhood and heroism.

The organiser of the event, Dimitry Shapar, a Russian explorer who in 1979

became the first man to ski to the North Pole, said the team had passed through trouble spots such as Abkazia and Dushanbe, capital of troubled Tajikistan.

But it had always been helped on its way. "This shows that friendship is our tomorrow," Shapar said.

Zakir Minayirov, the team member from Turkmenistan, told Reuters the journey should set an example to handicapped people to take up sport and "show politicians how to find a common language."

Shapar said the satisfaction of completing the journey equalled the thrill of his polar trek and helped to demonstrate that governments should treat the handicapped as real people with real rights. "In Russia and the former Soviet republics the disabled don't count as people," he said in an interview.

Four members of this team plan to go around the world on their next expedition and are deliberately planning a tough route through China, India, North Africa and South America."

Dallas win, lose two quarterbacks

DALLAS (R) — Emmitt Smith rushed for two first-quarter touchdowns and Kevin Williams returned a punt 83 yards for a score as the Dallas Cowboys survived injuries to Troy Aikman and Rodney Peete and routed the Washington Redskins, 31-7 Sunday.

Aikman directed the Cowboys (9-2) to 17 points in the first quarter before leaving in the second quarter with a sprained ligament in his left knee. Peete suffered a sprained thumb late in the third quarter and was replaced by Jason Garrett, who finished up.

In Chicago, Lewis Tillman ran for 126 yards, a touchdown as the surprising Chicago Bears won their third straight game with a 20-10 victory over the Detroit Lions.

In Cincinnati, Don Majkowski's eight-yard touchdown pass to Sean Dawkins with 1:14 left lifted the Indi-

apolis Colts to a 17-13 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals.

In Buffalo, Jim Kelly completed 32-of-44 passes for 365 yards and a pair of touchdowns to Andre Reed, who had a team-record 15 receptions, as the Buffalo Bills defeated the Green Bay Packers, 29-20.

Reed, who last week argued with Kelly on the sidelines during a loss to Pittsburgh, amassed 191 receiving yards. He hauled in scoring tosses of 15 and 10 yards as the Bills built a 27-6 half-time lead.

"He had one of the great games I have ever seen a receiver have," Green Bay head coach Paul Holmgren said.

In Denver, John Elway scored on a four-yard run with under two minutes left to rally the Denver Broncos to a 32-28 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

In Kansas City, Kimble

Anders scored on a one-yard run midway through the fourth quarter as the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Cleveland Browns, 20-13.

Anders' touchdown broke a 13-13 tie and capped a seven-play, 61-yard drive.

In New England, Drew Bledsoe connected with Leroy Thompson on a 27-yard scoring pass in the first quarter and Matt Bahr kicked three field goals as the New England Patriots defeated the San Diego Chargers, 23-17.

At the Raiders, Jeff Hostetler threw for 308 yards and three touchdowns, including a pair to Tim Brown, as the Los Angeles Raiders held on for a 24-19 victory over the New Orleans Saints.

In Pittsburgh, Gary Anderson's 39-yard field goal with just under five minutes remaining in overtime gave the Pittsburgh Steelers a 16-13 victory over the Miami Dolphins.

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Sampras boosts ranking with ATP win

FRANKFURT (AP) — Two Grand Slams, eight other titles, record earnings, top ranking safe. Not a bad year. But Pete Sampras thinks it could have been better.

Sampras won the Australian Open in January, Wimbledon in the summer, and the IBM/ATP Tour world championship for the second time Sunday.

"This ends the year on a great note," Sampras said after beating Boris Becker 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

"It gives me a bit of satisfaction. It's a good win here because the fall hasn't been so great," said Sampras, who also won here in 1991.

The American collected \$1.225 million for his victory and brought his 1994 earnings to \$3,607,812, an annual record for the tour.

Sampras began the year so strongly that he looked almost invincible after his second Wimbledon title and he was beaten in the round of 16 at the U.S. Open.

Defeats by Andre Agassi and Becker last month on European indoor Courts took some shine off his crown.

Although he lost to Becker at the start of the round-robin portion of the world championship, Sampras bounced back Sunday with an impressive performance. And he also beat Agassi in the semifinals.

Sampras, 23, is the first player to stay atop for the entire year since Ivan Lendl in 1987.

"It's a great accomplishment. It just proves that I have been really consistent even though it pulled out of six events. Being injured right after Wimbledon was very frustrating and the Open experience was very discouraging. I still maintained that No. 1 ranking by a pretty good margin and I hope to continue that."

"I got Andre right behind me, dying to be No. 1 so I just need to keep working hard," Sampras said.

Sampras lost his serve only once, and that cost him the first set.

Although beaten by



World No. 1 Pete Sampras jumps in joy after winning the ATP Tour tournament in Frankfurt (AFP photo)

Leading ATP rankings

Leading men's rankings issued by the ATP tour Monday:

1. Pete Sampras (U.S.)	5,097
2. Andre Agassi (U.S.)	3,249
3. Boris Becker (Germany)	3,237
4. Sergi Bruguera (Spain)	3,007
5. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)	2,936
6. Michael Chang (U.S.)	2,647
7. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)	2,471
8. Alberto Berasategui (Spain)	2,470
9. Michael Stich (Germany)	2,380
10. Todd Martin (U.S.)	2,307
11. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)	2,174
12. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa)	2,121
13. Jim Courier (U.S.)	1,909
14. Marc Rosset (Switzerland)	1,707
15. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine)	1,655

ATP wants to slow the game

FRANKFURT (AP) — In an attempt to enhance interest in the game, tennis officials are planning to slow the indoor game with the help of advanced technology and to regulate television exposure. Responding to common complaints that the indoor game is too fast, with few rallies between players serving aces at 200kmh. The Association of Tennis Professionals tour is developing technology to overcome the problem. The tour is working with the French Tennis Federation and the International Tennis Federation to develop a machine that will measure the speed of specific balls on a specific surface, Mark Miles, chief executive officer of the IBM/ATP Tour, told reporters Sunday. Similar tests with balls will be conducted in Wimbledon to determine an appropriate balance for play on grass."

Ma bids to woo back world champ Liu

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese athletics coach Ma Junren made a direct attempt to woo back world champion Liu Dong into his "army" of world-class athletes this month, according to the China Youth Daily. Disciplinarian Ma reportedly went to Liu's home and admitted he may have been "too extreme" with her in the past and "made some mistakes." Liu, 21, next month, won the world 1,500m title at Stuttgart last year but then fell out with her mentor after telling him she wanted boyfriend and to grow her hair. Ma, who also trains 10,000m champion Wang Junxia and 3,000m title holder Qu Yunxia and is equally famous for feeding them on a diet of turtle's blood and a secret elixir, promptly threw her out of his Liaoning-based team, arguing she had a "rebellious nature."

Prince Al-Waleed distributes cars to players

RIYADH (AP) — A Saudi prince awarded each of the kingdom's 37 top soccer stars a Chevrolet Limousine after they won the Gulf Cup championship last week, sports officials disclosed Sunday. Insisting on anonymity, they said the gifts presented by Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal Al Saud were worth \$750,000. Prince Al-Waleed, a nephew of King Fahd, made headlines by buying stock in the Euro Disney theme park in France earlier this year. He is a major shareholder of U.S. Citicorp, and has shares in Saks Fifth Avenue, the Fairmont Hotel chain in the United States and Canada's Four Seasons Hotel Inc.

Batistuta equals Italian scoring record

NAPLES (R) — Gabriel Batistuta equalled a 32-year-old Italian record when he scored for Fiorentina against Napoli Sunday. The goal meant the Argentine World Cup player had scored in the first 10 league games of the season, matching the run enjoyed by Ezio Fascati for Bologna at the start of the 1962-63 campaign.

Nine Kuwaitis banned for 3 months after shopping trip

KUWAIT (R) — Nine Kuwaiti soccer internationals have been suspended for three months after they went shopping without permission in the United Arab Emirates. The Kuwait news agency KUNA quoted the country's football association secretary Mohammad Othman Sunday as saying the players were punished for "ignoring instructions by officials." The nine first-team players had been dropped from last Wednesday's prestigious Gulf Cup final won 2-0 by Saudi Arabia following their shopping trip to Dubai, about 100 kms from Abu Dhabi where the match was played.

Indian celebration

Algerian opposition meets in Rome, calls for peace

ROME (Agencies) — Leading members of Algeria's opposition and civil rights groups on Monday called for peace talks to end fighting which they say risks plunging the country into a full-blown civil war.

Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella criticised violence employed by the military-backed government in the conflict on the opening day of a two-day gathering in Rome to discuss the crisis.

The Algerian government is not taking part and has attacked the Rome discussions, saying it never sought outside mediation and would not tolerate interference in its internal affairs.

"We are seeing the first signs of what could become a full-blown civil war. There is too much blood — there must be a dialogue," Mr. Ben Bella told representatives from 12 opposition groups taking part in the talks.

At least 10,000 people have been killed in Algeria since the army cancelled elections in 1992 in which the

fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken a commanding lead. Western experts put the death toll in the conflict at up to 20,000.

"Many of the civilian victims are not Islamists but people who made the mistake of living in the wrong neighbourhood," said Mr. Ben Bella, 75.

"I call on politicians to calm their spirits and to put a stop to the violence, from wherever it comes," said Mr. Ben Bella, who heads the moderate Movement for Democracy.

Abdenour Ali Yahya, a former minister who now leads the country's League for Human Rights, said the rate of killings by the authorities and opposition guerrillas had increased drastically recently.

"Hundreds of people are dying every day," he said.

"Every morning, dozens of Algerians are found dead by the side of the road. The whole country is affected."

Torture was common for anyone taken into police cus-

tody and deaths were now being reported in every village, he added.

Mr. Ben Yahya said violence had skyrocketed since talks between the government and the outlawed FIS collapsed last month, after the government accused the FIS of backing fundamentalists' violence that has killed some 70 foreigners.

The senior FIS delegate to the conference, Anwar Hadam, denied that his group encouraged the killing of foreigners.

"We call this terrorism and we condemn these acts," said Mr. Hadam, who is the leader of the FIS's parliamentary delegation to the United States and Europe.

He blamed the military government for creating the tension which engendered the violence and said those who carried out the killings had to take political responsibility for them.

"If we cannot guarantee the safety of Algerians in Algeria how can that of foreigners be guaranteed?" he asked.

Mr. Hadam added that his group had offered to send a delegation to Algeria for talks and was waiting for assurances that their safety would be guaranteed.

"We are open to any proposal," he said, pledging that the front would stick to the principles of political pluralism and would not seek to change the constitution other than by legal means.

The talks are being held at the Roman Catholic Sant' Egidio community, which has a record of successful international peace brokering.

The Vatican is also involved in the talks, saying they were an independent initiative on the part of Sant' Egidio.

The Algerian government refused to send a representative, while militantly anti-Islamist groups were also absent. The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) — the armed wing of the FIS — was not represented.

(Continued on page 7)



An Algerian mother and her children are overcome by emotion in Sidi Abdellah, near Mahelma, as a result of the death of her husband, a policeman who was gunned down by a group of 100 fundamentalists (AFP photo)

Experts review water and optimisation in agriculture

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arabs and Israelis might be able to resolve Middle Eastern political problems through the three-year-old peace negotiations, but the chronic shortage of water in the mostly arid region could be addressed only through wise management since there is not enough to go around, European and Arab experts said Monday.

Agriculture is an area where users particularly tend to waste water through inappropriate use due to either carelessness or lack of expert advice in most countries in the region, the experts told the first working session of a three-day seminar on "Optimisation of Water in Agriculture."

Representatives of more than a dozen Arab and European countries and international and regional organisations are participating in the seminar, organised by the French embassy in Amman in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Jordan Valley Authority and partly financed by the Delegation of the European Union in Amman.

The focus on the meeting is a close assessment of the water situation in the Middle East and how the region's farmers could make optimum use of the available water, which international studies have found to be far short of the actual needs of the region regardless of political agreements.

The seminar, formally opened by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Isheidat, on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (see page 3), was described as a forum for "providing practical results available to farmers throughout the Middle East" rather than a "formal meeting between exchanging theoretical points of view in a closed circuit" by French Ambassador Bernard Bajer.

Yves Gazzo, head of the European Commission delegation in Amman, spoke briefly about the problems faced by the region's countries in view of the high rate of population growth, climate

conditions, limited water resources and the rising demand for water in the agriculture sector.

Noting that experts have set a 500 cubic metres per capita consumption as the acceptable base for any country, Mr. Gazzo said water use in Jordan (where per capita consumption was 245 cubic metres in 1993) and other countries in the region were already below the base line.

As such, he said, there is an urgent need to coordinate efforts in water to manage existing as well as future water resources in an optimal way.

Among the topics under review at the seminar are irrigation methods and techniques presently used in the region as well as proposed means to raise efficient use of agriculture water, land and water policies, water resources development in Syria, irrigation management, vegetable production and irrigation in Turkey, Sudan's experience in horticultural crops, means to improve water resources, fossil water resources, use of treated water for irrigation, and water conservation methods.

Avedis Serperian, an official of the Jordan Valley Authority, presented a detailed situation report on irrigation in Jordan, giving the areas of irrigation, number of dams and reservoirs and the Kingdom's plans to maintain and develop its water sector through projects which have national and regional dimensions.

Shawkat Sarsour of the Palestine Agricultural Relief Committee, a non-governmental organisation based in Jerusalem, presented an assessment of Palestinian agriculture and the constraints imposed on Palestinian farming by the Israeli occupation authorities (see page 2).

Mahmoud Awad of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) reviewed the land and water policies in the region. In a question and answer session, he emphasised the need to introduce control measures as a means to ensure optimum use of water and preempt waste through imposing realistic tariffs.

"When you know that you are paying for it, you will get up and close a (leaking) tap," Mr. Awad said.

Presented during Monday's session were also working papers that detailed optimisation of water in Palestine agriculture by a Palestinian expert, constraints on high efficiency in irrigation management by Ross Hagan of the United States, information system for irrigation management in the Jordan Valley by Dr. Mohammad Shatnawi of the Water and Environmental Research Centre, effective water use in Jordan by Abdel Nabi Faroud of the Jordan Environmental Society, supplemental irrigation by Theib Owais of the International Centre for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas, and economising water in irrigation by Patrice Guinet of Agro-Resources of France.

Professor Peter Wolff of the University of Kassel, Germany, described "wise water management" as one of the "most crucial challenges facing the Near East."

Noting that the normal flows of most Near Eastern rivers and most of the rechargeable groundwater resources are fully allocated and new water resources were scarce, Prof. Wolff called for innovative approaches to water management.

The professor also briefly reviewed water management in Germany, which, he said, is also facing a water shortage.

Prof. Wolff said Jordan's irrigation sector "will have to get along with less and less water and will be forced to use water of marginal quality" and called on the sector to adjust to the situation "as fast as possible."

"This can only be achieved through intensive research work, especially on-farm research, adjustments to the legal framework, institutional developments, establishment of supporting and extension services etc.," he told the gathering. "There is no general model applicable to Jordan. Jordan, as all countries in a similar situation, will have to find its own way of dealing with the problem."

"But is always very helpful to look at problems other countries are facing and how they are being solved."



SHOW OF STRENGTH: Armed members of the Fatah Hawks swarm a truck during a demonstration in Gaza City on Monday. More than 15,000 people took to the streets in support of Yasser Arafat following heavy clashes with Islamic rioters that left 16 people dead on Friday (see page one) (AFP photo)

Shekel weakens

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli shekel weakened against the dollar and basket of foreign currencies for the second consecutive day on Monday as the Central Bank intervened to prop up the local currency.

The shekel's weakness was a result of rumours of an impending shekel devaluation as banks speculated by buying dollars heavily.

The Bank of Israel intervened to moderate the fall of the shekel.

The dollar opened trade at 3.026 shekels per dollar and reached a high of 3.070 shekels before the Bank of Israel intervened by supplying huge amounts of dollars to the hungry banks, thus supporting the shekel," said Ilan Zadka of Bank Mizrahi. "The turnover was enormous."

The shekel closed the daily tender at 3.034 shekels per dollar against 3.026 shekels on Friday and 2.995 shekels on Thursday.

The basket closed at 3.3456 on Sunday said Mr. Menem would hold talks with his Syrian counterpart.

The shekel traded against the yen at 3.0761 shekels per 100 yen, unchanged from Friday, and against the mark at 1.9439 shekels per mark from 1.9432 on Friday.

In late afternoon the dollar traded at 3.0369 shekels.

An official announcement released in Damascus on Sunday said Mr. Menem would hold talks with his Syrian counterpart.

The shekel traded against the yen at 3.0761 shekels per 100 yen, unchanged from Friday, and against the mark at 1.9439 shekels per mark from 1.9432 on Friday.

However, reports from Buenos Aires said Mr. Menem had expressed a willingness to play the role of

Menem in Syria, may try peace mediation

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Carlos Menem of Argentina arrived Monday for talks with Syrian officials amid reports he would offer to mediate between Syria and Israel.

He was quoted as saying at a reception at the Syrian Club in Buenos Aires that he would discuss with Mr. Assad "the need to establish peace in the Middle East" and that he was prepared to "take part in the peace process" between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

In Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres welcomed a possible Menem mediation bid, saying, "I'm sure that President Menem is capable of carrying important messages from Israel to Syria and from Syria to Israel."

He mentioned Mr. Menem's Syrian origins and added that "the fact that a president from this origin is supporting so much and so seriously the peace process in the Middle East and coexistence of different religions and ethnic groups in Argentina itself speak very much to his credit."

A seminar has been set for Tuesday for Syrian and Argentine businessmen, who are expected to reactivate bilateral trade, scientific and cultural agreements signed in 1989.

On Wednesday, Mr. Menem was to visit his old family house in the village of Yabrud, 80 kilometres north of Damascus.

"I am proud to visit my ancestors' homeland, I am proud to meet President Assad, and I am sure that our talks will be fruitful and successful," Mr. Menem told the Syrian news agency before leaving Buenos Aires.

Syrian vice presidents



Carlos Menem

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria says 'mild' quake hit country

DAMASCUS (R) — An earthquake hit northeast Syria on Sunday but caused no casualties or damage, officials said. They said the quake, which they termed as "mild," measured 1.5 on the Richter scale and lasted less than 10 seconds at around 1430 GMT. It was felt by residents in the cities of Day Azzaw, Rakka and Hasakah, northeast of Damascus. Turkish monitors said a strong earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale hit northeast Syria on Sunday and was felt in four provinces of Turkey. A quake of that strength is powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated area. Syrian officials said that oil operations in the Day Azzaw area, where most of Syria's oilfields are located, were running normally.

Rabin to visit Seoul, Tokyo

SEOUL (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will visit Seoul Dec. 14-17, becoming the first Israeli head of government to visit South Korea, an official announcement said Monday. Before coming to Seoul, Mr. Rabin is to visit Japan Dec. 12-14 for talks with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, Japan's Foreign Minister said. It will also be the first visit to Japan by an Israeli prime minister. Mr. Rabin will confer with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam on the situations in Northeast Asia and the Middle East, chief presidential spokesman Choo Don-Shik said.

During Mr. Rabin's stay, the two countries will sign an aviation agreement to open direct flights between their capitals, transportation ministry officials said. Israel and South Korea established formal diplomatic ties in 1962 but their relations have been bumpy because of Seoul's relations with Arab countries. The two countries withdrew their diplomats in the 1970s, Israel reopened its embassy in Seoul early this year but South Korea has yet to reciprocate.

Pollard remains threat to security — CIA says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, who is eligible for parole next year, has tried to reveal classified information from prison and remains a security risk according to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) documents. "He retains the ability to harm our national security because on his intelligence, his power of recollection, his history of significant emotional instability, his history of drug abuse and his overriding loyalty to another country," the agency wrote in documents cited in Monday's edition of *Defense Week*, a weekly newsletter that covers the defence industry. The declassified documents were provided to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which asked the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency to assess the potential national security damage if Mr. Pollard were released, the newsletter said. Mr. Pollard's attorney, Theodore Olson, responded that the CIA's accusations of drug abuse and continued attempts to reveal classified information are unfounded. Mr. Pollard, a former navy intelligence analyst, was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 after pleading guilty to

selling secrets to Israel. He admitted selling classified information to Israel from 1984 until his arrest in November 1985, receiving as much as \$2,500 a month. President Clinton refused to reduce Mr. Pollard's sentence last year.

Former G.E. manager sentenced for fraud

CINCINNATI (AFP) — A former General Electric (GE) manager who plotted to divert millions of dollars in U.S. defence contracts to Israel has been sentenced to seven years in prison. Herbert B. Steinleider, who was GE's international sales manager, apologised for his actions at Friday's sentencing but U.S. District Judge Carl Rubin was unmoved. Mr. Steinleider, 55, of Melbourne, Florida, pleaded guilty in July in conspiracy, wire fraud, money laundering and use of the mail racketeering, and agreed to repay \$1.7 million to the U.S. government. He was convicted in connection with a scheme to divert \$11 million from G.E. contracts with the U.S. government to supply jet engines to Israel. The scheme ran between 1984 and 1990. A former Israeli army general was convicted in Israel for his involvement in the scheme in 1991 while G.E. paid \$69 million in fines, penalties and damages.

Death sentences sought in tourist slayings

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's military prosecutor on Monday called for the death penalty for four suspected extremists accused of killing a German tourist and two Egyptians. Two of the men are at large. The attack occurred Sept. 28 in the Red Sea resort of Hurghada. Another German and an Egyptian were wounded in the shooting on the crowded street. The prosecutor also called for harsh prison sentences for 12 other suspected militants implicated in planning the attack. Four of them are at large. Foreign reporters and Egyptian reporters with foreign news organisations have been banned from the trial on grounds the coverage distorts Egypt's image abroad. The case against the 16 defendants opened Nov. 5 and is expected to conclude by the end of this month, according to a military official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The defence is to begin Tuesday.

Palestinian minister visits France

PARIS (AFP) — The culture minister of the Palestinian authority was due to arrive in France on Monday for a week-long visit concentrating on problems of education in the newly-autonomous territories, officials said. Yasser Abd Rabbo, minister for culture and arts, will also discuss Franco-Palestinian cultural cooperation with French officials during the visit, the foreign ministry announced. During the trip, which comes amid heightened tension in the Gaza Strip following clashes last week which left 18 dead, he will meet Culture Minister Jacques Toubon as well as senior officials at the foreign ministry. Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said the latest clashes would not influence France's continuing support for the Palestinian authority.

COLUMN

Queen Elizabeth wins lottery

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth was among the winners in the first draw of Britain's new National Lottery, Today newspaper reported in its Monday editions. Britain's richest woman won £10 (\$15.70) but she will have to share it with the other members of a 20-strong royal syndicate including her husband, Prince Philip, and the Queen Mother, it said. They will each get 50 pence (\$0.80 cents). The royal punters were among 1.1 million Britons who won the minimum prize in the lottery by picking three of the six numbers drawn Saturday evening. The queen sat alone in Windsor Castle watching the draw live on television. Today said, "She loves a flutter," a royal source told the newspaper. "She gets very excited when something she has bet on comes in even second or third."

Diana documentary sells to 21 countries

LONDON (AFP) — A television documentary highlighting the life of Princess Diana and broadcast Saturday evening in Britain has been sold to 21 countries, producers Granada and London Weekend Television said Sunday. The documentary, Diana: Portrait of a Princess, was based on royal author Andrew Morton's recent bestseller Diana: Her New Life and uses an actress to portray one of his main sources whose identity has not been revealed. Mr. Morton also scored a major hit with his earlier work Diana: Her True Story, based on witness accounts by close friends of her life in the royal household who described her as fraught with misery and prone to bouts of bulimia and severe depression. Among networks to buy the film are U.S. broadcaster CBS and stations in Australia, France, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Russia and South Africa. The film crew followed Princess Diana around for several months after she decided to limit public engagements last December, a move which they noted had apparently not stopped her from keeping going her ambiguous relationship with the press. Newspapers have continually rushed to print exclusive pictures of the princess visiting homeless people in London. Diana is described in the film as a young woman trying to determine which way her new life should go now she has separated from her husband Prince Charles. Her chief concern remains the future of her sons Princes William and Harry. Her astrologer is shown as saying she knew Prince Charles did not love Princess Diana even before they married in 1981.